



French Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: January 14, 2025

A meeting of the French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee convened from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in Committee Room C/3rd Floor West Meeting Room and via virtual Zoom meeting, with Parent Co-Chair Lynne LeBlanc presiding.

Item	Invitee Name
Attended:	Lynne LeBlanc (Parent Co-Chair W8), Moosa Alloo (Parent Vice Co-Chair W19), Sharlene Henry (Parent Vice Co-Chair, W5/W6 Alt), Charles Zhu (Parent Vice Co-Chair W11), Nabil Hasbun (W1), Lisa McAvoy (W2), Devon Pool (W3), Andrew Waters (W3 Alt), Oluwakemi Ojowa (W4), Bibi Safraw Hanif, Maeve Gray (W10), Divya Chandra (Ward 11 Alt), Aamir Barlas (W14 Alt), Gail Miller (W22). Also present: Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French), Roni Felsen (Staff Co-Lead), Trustee Dennis Hastings (W1), Trustee Dan MacLean (W2), Deborah Williams (Trustee Co-Chair W10), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Liliana Martins (Co-ordinator, Secondary)
Guests:	Randy Samuel, Neav Constantine.
Regrets:	Michelle Munroe (Central Co-ordinator PCE), Elizabeth Carvalho (W7), Cheryl Batty (W8 Alt).
Recorder:	James Jarrett

Item	Discussion	Motion / Action
1. Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Land acknowledgment – Lynne LeBlanc. ● Meeting recorded for minute taking purposes. ● Introductions. 	
2. Quorum / Membership Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quorum met 11 out of 12 Wards present. ● Ward 20 Zuojun Han membership temporarily suspended, missed last 6. ● Ward 1 Nabil Hasbun is new rep., children go to Rivercrest JPS. ● Ward 4 Olowakemi Ojowa is new rep., child goes to Topcliff PS. ● Ward 4 Bibi Safraw Hanif is new alt. rep., children go to Firgrove PS. ● Ward 14 Aamir Barlas is new alt. rep., children go to Gateway PS and Leaside HS. 	
3. Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moosa Alloo moves, Devon Pool seconds. Carried. ● Staff: Can we move Kevin Hodgkinson’s presentation up? 	
4. Approval of November 12, 2024 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sharlene Henry Approves, Devon Pool seconds. Carried. 	James Jarrett to post minutes on FSLCAC Page
5. Declarations - Possible Conflict of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Andrew Waters is running for Trustee of Ward 11. ● Gail Miller is an emergency replacement person in the TDSB 	
6. Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff: Kevin Hodgkinson is the General Manager for the TSTG, the transportation manager for the TDSB and TCDSB. ● 18000 students are transported in the TDSB Daily. ● We have students both transported by school bus and TTC. ● This is a new contract year for us and we have two new operators. ● The board has 3 main silos of students. ● There are different distance thresholds based on age. ● Students from JK to Grade 5 are on school buses. ● Students in Grades 6 to 12 are given TTC tickets, if they are not special education. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Q: I know of a parent who has 3 kids going to the same school. They are picked up from their home school 1.7 km away to a program at another school. ● Staff: French Immersion and Gifted children are picked up on a school-to-school model. Kids with complex needs are picked up from home. ● In the past we have had severe driver shortages, necessitating the staggered start for special education excluding gifted in week one, everyone else in week two. ● The new carriers have helped mitigate these problems ● 12000 students are transported in the first week. 6000 students week 2. ● This staggered start is based on past years' driver shortages in the first week. ● There is also an empty seat protocol, for buses with less than 75 percent capacity, where students walk to a pick-up point at a school ● Preferably like to know who is transported by June. first 3-4 weeks are in flux. ● Requests for transportation go through the principal to the TSTG. ● Q: Is busing for all students or special education only? ● Staff: Special Needs students, French Immersion Students and gifted students, as well as students that are beyond the age-distance threshold to their home schools. ● Q: Is there a wait list for transportation. ● Staff: There should be no waitlist for students that have registered by June. ● Q: In the case I gave earlier, they are 3.5 km from the FI school so why aren't they picked up from home. ● Staff: For FI the transportation model is from school-to-school. ● Threshold for transportation of primary students is 1.6 km. ● Q: For students in grade 6-8, do the students have to apply for TTC Tickets? ● Staff: Yes, it's done through the home school. We confirm the age and distance. ● Q: The tickets are sent to the school, it's very labour intensive to hand them out. ● Staff: Metrolinx produces 1-time presto tickets, have not migrated to Presto yet. ● Q: For students Grades 9-12 more than 4.8 km from school, they apply at school? ● Staff: Correct ● Q: Why is it not possible for students to start on the first day? ● Staff: We used to do it before COVID. The cause since then has been driver shortages. We prioritize special education students. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Q: This assumes parents have flexibility to transport their children the first week. People must take vacation days to manage. ● Q: Chair Pilkey said in a past Board meeting that it was because of COVID. I don't see the difference between the first week and the second week. ● Staff: You're right in terms of services. We would like to have everyone start on the first day, but we must deal with the shortage of drivers. We have people that commit to us, and then don't show. We don't want students left waiting at a stop. ● Q: The Governance Committee of transportation controls this, correct? ● Staff: Yes. ● Q: Are the bus companies contracted to have a full compliment of drivers? ● Staff: We ask the companies to do a dry run of their route before school starts. Sometimes the drivers don't show up on the first day. ● Q: I heard the Chair say that busing was staggered for special education students, but before COVID all students were accommodated. Are the bus companies getting paid full amount? ● Staff: We pay for what we run. There is a small savings for the staggered start. ● Q: Would the savings in part dictate the policy? ● Staff: No. ● Q: If we look at the FSL enrolment report, the peek was 4800 transported in 2016 for FI. Now its down to 3059 because there are more sites. In 2023, there were 629 delays the first week, and 1965 in the second week. Delays drop in week 5. ● Q: When does the governance committee make the decisions. ● Staff: In May ● Q: Do you take delegations. ● Staff: No, but we could take written submissions. ● Where do parents appeal transportation decisions? ● Staff: Through the school. ● Q: I've had to take of 4 days of after labour day. I take vacation days, but other families cannot afford to be off. FI is a choice the school bus is a relief. This needs to be addressed. Are parents of FI students that are more than 4.8 km away eligible for tickets in high school? 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff: TTC tickets are for students whose home high school is more than 4.8 km. ● Trustee MacLean: I wanted to confirm the committee wants to draft a formal position, is there a mechanism to create a written position. ● Staff: Yes, we appreciate those kinds of reports. ● Q: For parents who qualify for transportation, they'd speak with their school first? ● Staff: School is the point of contact; We share with incoming KG students. ● Q: For students in MFI, would that conversation happen at their current school? ● Staff: We suggest the program school, but home schools have the forms. ● Q: The group could have a conversation as per Trustee MacLean's suggestion. And write something to be brought to the February meeting. ● Parent Co-Chair: Agreed. We would love to have a membership discussion, and ensure that communication is sent to parents by June. ● Q: Is there any information on the Transit Rider Safety Program? ● Staff: We can't give a timeframe. We're working with the TTC but it's problematic. We have some material online, but we don't have a program yet. ● Parent Co-Chair: The first week is stressful for parents, don't see how the delayed start makes a difference. Any additional member comments can be sent to me. ● Trustee Co-Chair: Just to clarify, this committee wants to move on a letter to TSTG. Are you passing a motion to this effect? ● Parent Co-Chair. We think Trustee MacLean's suggestion is good. We'll discuss it amongst the executive and bring something to the February meeting. ● Motion for a communication. Lisa McAvoy moves, Devon Pool seconds. Carried. 	
7. CFP and Ward Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nil report for CFP. ● Nil reports for the wards. 	
8. Parent Co-Chair Report & Trustee's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parent Co-Chair: Nil report from the parent chair. ● Trustee Co-Chair Report: <p>NEWS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025-01-08: Clayton La Touche Appointed TDSB Director of Education The appointment will take effect February 10, 2025. https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/Details/mid/43823/itemid/399 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025-01-13 Toronto Public Health: Reducing the Spread of Respiratory Infections in Schools. See the information and resources for reducing the spread of respiratory infections in schools. https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/Details/mid/43823/itemid/406 ● 2025-01-08 Letter re: PowerSchool Cyber Incident. On Tuesday, January 7, 2025, PowerSchool notified the TDSB and other school boards in Ontario and across North America that they had experienced a data breach between December 22 - 28, 2024. We will continue to update the community as more information becomes available. https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/Details/mid/43823/itemid/400 <p>EVENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equity and Belonging Begins at Home with Dr. Andrew B. Campbell (Dr. ABC) DATE: January 15, 2025 TIME: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. (virtual) LOCATION: virtual (register to receive link) REGISTRATION LINK: https://bit.ly/CEBSA-ABC ● PIAC Ready. Set. Engage. - School Councils & Principals: Stronger Together: PIAC's 18th Annual Conference DATE: Saturday, February 1, 2025 TIME: 1:00pm – 5:00pm LOCATION: Woburn Collegiate Institute, 2222 Ellesmere Rd, Scarborough ON This event brings together School Councils & Principals to collaborate towards enhance School Council relationships for strong & effective Leadership Teams. Invitations have gone out to School Councils, Principals, and Trustees. <p>HERITAGE MONTH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tamil Heritage Month January 2025 TDSB proudly recognizes Tamil Heritage Month during the month of January. This year, the theme for Tamil Heritage Month is from a quotation by influential Tamil philosopher Kaniyan Pungundranar: 	

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	<p>Kinship: யாதும் ஊரே யாவரும் கேளிர் // Yaadhum Oore Yaavarum Kelir To us, all towns are one, and all people are our kin For further information about Tamil Heritage Month, please follow @TDSB_Tamil on X to learn interesting facts on Tamil traditions and explore what students have to say in their own words about the Tamil heritage.</p> <p>ADVOCACY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2024-12-17 Chair, Trustee Shan wrote an advocacy letter to Mayor Olivia Chow in support for the motion to create a Toronto Youth Employment Program, as outlined in City Council item 2024.MM24.2; and urged the City to work collaboratively with the TDSB and other community partners to ensure the successful implementation of a Toronto Youth Employment Program. https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/Details/mid/43824/itemid/394 ● 2024-11-26 Chair, Trustee Shan wrote an advocacy letter to Minister of Education Jill Dunlop requesting increased funding to support the hiring of additional Math Learning Partners (Math Facilitators) in the 2024-2025 school year to intensify support in Math Learning Partner (MLP) schools. 2023-2024 TDSB Math Achievement Action Plan - a comprehensive mathematics strategy - with targeted support for Math Learning Partner (MLP) schools (Math Priority Schools). Positive gains were recorded across the 123 MLP schools from 2022-23 to 2023-24: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grade 3: 4-point increase in students scoring at or above the 70% standard ○ Grade 6: 2-point increase in students meeting or exceeding the 70% standard ● This advocacy letter also requested that funding be restored in the 2024-2025 school year for staffing of de-streaming. If restored, the funding will be used to support the release of curriculum leaders to provide coaching within secondary math departments, increase professional learning offerings, and enhance appropriate tiered interventions for students as needed. https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/Details/mid/43824/itemId/391/20241126153240 <p>BUDGET:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual TDSB Budget process has begun. There will be opportunities for the public to delegate and also participate in Budget Town Halls similar to last year. The following are key dates in the timeline: <table border="1" data-bbox="472 300 1688 1412"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="472 300 718 418">Date</th> <th data-bbox="718 300 978 418">Type of Meeting</th> <th data-bbox="978 300 1688 418">Purpose</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="472 418 718 537">Jan 30, 2025</td> <td data-bbox="718 418 978 537">Regular FBEC</td> <td data-bbox="978 418 1688 537"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on \$5M savings centrally 1st Quarter financial report </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="472 537 718 656">Feb 27, 2025</td> <td data-bbox="718 537 978 656">Special FBEC</td> <td data-bbox="978 537 1688 656"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial projection for 2025-26 report Financial Facts submission </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="472 656 718 774">March 4, 2025</td> <td data-bbox="718 656 978 774">Special FBEC</td> <td data-bbox="978 656 1688 774"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Based Staffing 2025-26 </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="472 774 718 893">March 26, 2025</td> <td data-bbox="718 774 978 893">Regular FBEC</td> <td data-bbox="978 774 1688 893"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of balance budget plan Update on Core Ed Funding (if available) </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="472 893 718 1011">April 30, 2025</td> <td data-bbox="718 893 978 1011">Regular FBEC</td> <td data-bbox="978 893 1688 1011"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Operating Budget based on Core Ed Funding 2025-26 Presentation of draft capital budget </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="472 1011 718 1130">May 15, 2025</td> <td data-bbox="718 1011 978 1130">Special FBEC</td> <td data-bbox="978 1011 1688 1130"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Operating Budget Plan </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="472 1130 718 1248">June 4, 2025</td> <td data-bbox="718 1130 978 1248">Regular FBEC</td> <td data-bbox="978 1130 1688 1248"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of 2025-26 Operating and Capital Budgets </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="472 1248 718 1367">June 18, 2025</td> <td data-bbox="718 1248 978 1367">Board</td> <td data-bbox="978 1248 1688 1367"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of 2025-26 Operating and Capital Budgets </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Type of Meeting	Purpose	Jan 30, 2025	Regular FBEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on \$5M savings centrally 1st Quarter financial report 	Feb 27, 2025	Special FBEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial projection for 2025-26 report Financial Facts submission 	March 4, 2025	Special FBEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Based Staffing 2025-26 	March 26, 2025	Regular FBEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of balance budget plan Update on Core Ed Funding (if available) 	April 30, 2025	Regular FBEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Operating Budget based on Core Ed Funding 2025-26 Presentation of draft capital budget 	May 15, 2025	Special FBEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Operating Budget Plan 	June 4, 2025	Regular FBEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of 2025-26 Operating and Capital Budgets 	June 18, 2025	Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of 2025-26 Operating and Capital Budgets 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Q: For math you saw positive results. What were these? ● Trustee Co-Chair: There was progress in grade 3 with 70 percent reaching the provincial standard and in grade 6 with 70 percent reaching the standard. ● The progress is not in all our schools. We have 123 math learning partner schools. ● Q: How are they chosen? ● Trustee Co-Chair: Staff can speak to this. It's based on the academic need. ● Staff: the schools are chosen based on prior EQAO, as well as LOI being a factor. ● Math learning schools have PD available to the entire system. ● There are partners addressed to specific schools. ● Q: Has there been any advocacy to the mayor. We have advocated for free TTC through high school. Transportation can be a barrier for low-income FI students. ● Trustee Co-Chair: That's a great idea. ● Q: It was part of our transportation delegation. ● Q: Concerning PIAC, we are tracking towards having a table at the event. ● Trustee Co-Chair: It will be in person at Woburn CI, the focus of the event is principals and school councils working together. ● Parent Co-Chair: Sent a note to Trustee Lulka Rotman about having a session and speaking about dual track schools. My own council has not received PIAC communication yet. ● Trustee Co-Chair: My understanding is that invitations have gone out. ● Q: The conference is February 1, there will be a series of workshops. There were targeted invites, we reached out to councils where we had contact information. ● Q: If a council hasn't received anything? ● Q: Reach out to Latha or Margaret. All schools are invited. All principals have received the communication. Some councils have had trouble forming. ● Q: Regarding the CAC, I would love to know the processes and procedures. I know Lynne is the Chair. ● Parent Co-Chair: We usually have an on-boarding meeting in September and another in March. We can have a chat. 	

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9. Staff Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff: We have now have 79 EFI sites and 40 MFI Sites. ● The FI sites have catchment areas that are made up of English home schools. As an example, Firgrove is connected to an FI site in its area. ● Q: What do parents do who want to attend a site? ● Staff: You apply for transportation at the FI entry point in Kindergarten for EFI or the Grade 4 school when applying for MFI in Grade 3. ● Q: There's no entry for grade 1 or 2? ● Staff: No. For Firgrove, Topcliff is the EFI location, Stanley is the MFI location. ● The EFI application process ran in November for JK entry, from November 4-29. This was our last year of using our PARS system. For those who were on time, they were guaranteed a spot, though not at a particular school, based on demand. ● For the last few years, our enrolment was under 3000, this year it's above 3200. ● The portal remains live for late applicants, who will be held on local waitlists. ● MFI is our second entry point. We are one of the few boards that offer this. ● This year the application process is integrated with PowerSchool. ● The enrolment period opened January 6, and closes January 21st. ● We have sent out an email to all parents. ● Two parent sessions, January 15 at 10:00 am and January 21st at 7:00 pm. ● www.tdsb.on.ca/MFI, the information is on one page. There is a video. ● Q: How is PowerSchool working for the application process? ● Staff: It's quite user friendly, better than PARS for families and staff. ● Staff: We're the only users of PARS, so there is more support for PowerSchool. ● Q: What are PARS and PowerSchool? ● Staff: PARS was used for registration. PowerSchool is our student database. ● Q: Are their new FI sites being opened this year? ● Staff: No. We've opened 4 sites in the last two years. Bannockburn opened this year, through a PART process. Additional sites were in the previous year. ● Q: Our school believes that Military Trail is being opened. ● Staff: No that's not correct 	

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10. CAC Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff: From the Org. Board meeting on November 13, we were elated that the name change was accepted by the committee. ● Afterwards, there was a motion presented. It sought to reconstitute the CACs. ● We spent a lot of time talking about PR.741 and PR.742. ● The motion was to explore alternative committee models. ● The report will go to PSSC in the fall. There was a directive to move do a different model of operation for this committee. ● How it will look is still being discussed ● The Parent Co-Chair met with Michelle Munroe about it. ● Any format change will go through Executive Council. ● Trustee Co-Chair: This is looking at the options, it's not to presuppose anything. The committee could remain in it's current structure. There is work to be done. ● Q: What's happening with other CAC's regarding this? This is only 2 months away. ● Parent Co-Chair: Is this going to be a priority for the new incoming Director? We have many issues in the TDSB. What prompted the decision that these 3 committees are going to be explored? ● Staff: 6 were brought forward. 3 have been completed. The remaining 3 are to be reviewed, but they are directed to have changes as part of their process. ● Trustee Co-Chair: The review process left trustees feeling that the it didn't give enough analysis of CACs. This aims to do that. It didn't give a staff analysis of where CACs fit. We must examine this, and the Director will be responsible. ● Q: It's the Executive Committee, Executive Council, Director and senior staff. The process should have been directed by trustees. Trustees have delegated procedures to staff and there is no place for Trustee input. The challenge is to the Trustees to participate in the process. ● The Trustees who sit in CACs did not participate in the process when the have the best information. School councils are not a good source of input. What would staff do a report on volunteers. It's awkward. ● Parent Co-Chair. We need to acknowledge that there was feedback from all committees. Staff didn't think the Trustees got what they were looking for. ● Trustee Co-Chair: This process is not meant to prejudge. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trustee MacLean: This wasn't a Trustee run process. We didn't ask for a review or have a need to modify the number of CACs. Do they have value? We have identified 2 CACs that do the same work, and we believe they can be combined. ● We need to review before we make changes. It doesn't make sense to see half the data, change, then get more data. I'm sure the staff presentation is accurate but I would want to go back to the Board to find out what the plans are. ● Q: Is Spring 2025 realistic? ● Trustee MacLean: The point is well taken that people gave their time for this. Spring 2025 is a bizarre date to me. It's poor timing for a new Director, who will have an abundance of work. We are committed to doing the work. I defer to Trustee Co-Chair, but we are here to support the CAC. We will take the feedback. ● Staff: Whatever we can do to provide support, we will do. ● Parent Co-Chair: Let's think about next steps and other questions we have. If you're on a school council, check to see if you received the PIAC invitation. ● Q: Will the next meeting be virtual? ● Staff: Yes. ● Parent Co-Chair: April may be the next Hybrid meeting. ● Staff: March is currently listed as Hybrid. ● Parent Co-Chair: The teacher item on the agenda can't go forward because we don't have staff here to respond to it. ● Staff: It would be very helpful to have questions in advance for that speaker. ● Parent Co-Chair. We'll send out an email to new members. ● Staff: We've been asked to hold on the posters and the new email address. 	
11. Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Divya Chandra moves, Devon Pool seconds. Carried. 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 11, Virtual 	